

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-12 /101 W
-----121420 250431Z /64
R 241542Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9526
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 05648

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO, UR
SUBJECT: SOMALI AMBASSADOR REPORTS NO CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS
HERE

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR AS WELL AS
ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO USSR ALI HAJI
HASHI STATED HE HAS NO CONTACT WITH SOVIET LEADERSHIP HERE
AND IS NOT AWARE OF ANY ASSURANCES GIVEN TO HIS GOVERNMENT
BY SOVIETS THAT BORDER WILL NOT BE CROSSED BY ETHIOPIAN
TROOPS. AMBASSADOR HASHI, WHO HAS BEEN HERE FOR TWO YEARS,
STATED THAT SOVIETS PREFER TO HAVE THEIR CONTACTS IN
FOREIGN CAPITALS, NOT HERE IN MOSCOW, BUT HE WAS NOT AWARE
OF ANY SUCH ASSURANCES HAVING BEEN GIVEN IN MOGADISCIO
EITHER.

2. ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR HASHI, TWO SOMALI BORDER TOWNS
HAVE BEEN BOMBED, PRESUMABLY BY CUBAN PILOTS, BUT HE WAS
NOT AWARE OF ANY GROUND ACTIVITY.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO USG ROLE, HASHI CONCEDED THAT POSITION
OF MAJORITY OF AFRICAN STATES CRITICAL OF SOMALIA MADE IT
DIFFICULT FOR U.S. TO RENDER SUPPORT. NOTING THAT CUBAN
PRESENCE IN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAS TENDED TO BE
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SEMI-PERMANENT, HE FORESAW NO DIFFERENT FATE FOR ETHIOPIA
AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US WOULD BE ABLE TO ASSIST SOMALIS
NOW THAT THEY WERE, ACCORDING TO HIM, BACK WITHIN
THEIR BORDERS.

4. COMMENT: SOVIETS TRADITIONALLY TRY TO HOLD FOREIGN
AMBASSADORS AT ARM'S LENGTH IN MOSCOW, AND IT IS NO

SURPRISE THAT THEY HAVE CHOSEN TO IGNORE THE SOMALI
AMBASSADOR ALMOST TOTALLY. TOON

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Message Attributes

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